



## Reservists & real-world ops

**R**eservists play so many roles in the military that they are virtually indistinguishable from active-duty counterparts. Nowhere has that become more apparent than in operational support. This issue of *Answering the Call* features reservists involved in real-world operations, specifically, support to the Office of Defense Cooperation-Turkey.

Over the holiday break, and with little notice, EUCOM was

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**Volume 4**  
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# Reservists pivotal to everyday routine at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

by Capt. Christine Miller, USN  
*EUCOM Public Affairs*

**T**here's never a bad day at Landstuhl, Germany," Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Johnson says with a smile as the lunchtime crowd slowly exits the medical center's dining hall. "I'm healthy – and grateful – I'm part of a team of Navy Reservists who are making a difference in the lives of our fellow wounded warriors."

Johnson was just one of more than 320 Navy Reserve and 30 active duty Sailors ranging from medical personnel and culinary specialists to administrative and supply support and chaplains who completed a year-long deployment at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in November. This represented the first and largest Navy Reserve deployment to the Army medical facility, which takes pride in being "America's beacon of health care for its sons and daughters abroad."

Under the leadership of Capt. Joan Olson, USN Nurse Corps, deputy director for Navy Personnel at LRMC, Sailors provided comprehensive medical, health, administrative and religious support, ranging from surgeons, operating room nurses to pulmonary care providers, pathologists, storekeepers and religious specialists. Landstuhl is the largest U.S. medical facility outside the continental United States.

Navy Reservists hailed from more than 30 Navy Operational Support Centers

(NOSCs), Navy Health Centers, Navy Air Reserve Centers and Naval Air Stations in states including Alaska, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah,



**LANDSTUHL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Germany — Navy Vice Adm. John G. Cotton, Chief of Navy Reserve, talks with Army Spc. Jack Carrier during a July 27 visit to Landstuhl. Cotton visited patients injured downrange as part of his visit to LRMC where he met with 320 Sailors to express his thanks for their service during a yearlong deployment to LRMC as the Fleet Hospital Great Lakes Platform. (Department of Defense photo by Chuck Roberts)**

Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Of the 350 authorizations on duty, 142 were officers from the medical, nurse, medical services and chaplain corps. Fifteen Navy doctors brought a wide range of specialties, including urology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, gastroenterology, orthopedics, general surgery and internal medicine. More than 100 nurses provided assistance in intensive care, the operating room, orthopedics, and the psychiatric and medical-surgical floors. Officers in the Medical Services Corps included physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, social workers, dietitians and patient administration. Olson's team also included more than 200 enlisted personnel working in pharmacy,

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# Reservists arrive in Turkey to augment the Ankara Coordination Directorate

By Capt. Christine Miller, USN  
ODC/ACD Public Affairs

Several reservists have begun to augment the Ankara Coordination Directorate (ACD), one of the directorates of the Office of Defense Cooperation-Turkey (OCD-T). After establishing the coordination cell in late 2007, EUCOM is responsible for staffing and maintaining support personnel to the ODC-T.

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The ODC-T, under the command of Maj. Gen. Eric J. Rosborg, USAF, is a joint multi-service command comprised of several directorates including Security Cooperation and Agreements and Operations. It fosters U.S. government and U.S. defense industry participation in Turkish defense initiatives and facilitates U.S. military activities in Turkey. The ACD is currently providing information sharing and assistance to the Turkish General Staff.

The U.S. has been interested in helping Turkey maintain stability in the region to ensure a safe, secure environment, working to deter destabilizing influences. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952 became a member



of NATO. In 1964, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community.

Two of the first reservists to report for duty in late 2007 at the ACD are North Dakota natives. Lt. Tyler Lippert, a member of Navy Reserve MSC Det 160, Baltimore, is no stranger to military recalls. Prior to his assignment to the Ankara Coordination Directorate, the Merchant Marine officer accepted deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Uganda. He works side-by-side with his Turkish counterparts.

Another reservist from the "Roughrider" state is MSG Jeffrey Kroke, USAR, who lives in Ankara with his family. Assigned to the Joint Reserve Intelligence Support Element-Europe unit, Kroke was serving

as a substitute teacher and coach at the George C. Marshall School (DoDDS), Ankara, before his recall in December.

Army Col. Stuart Wahlers reported as the Officer-in-Charge, ACD in late January. Wahlers, a mobilized Individual Ready Reservist with 26 years of active federal service, was most recently detailed from the Undersecretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, the Honorable Paul F. McHale, Jr., as DoD's lead strategic catastrophic incident planner to the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security Incident Management Planning Team and the Homeland Security Council.

Navy Cmdr. W. Shannon Brown, a full-time support reservist, serves as the Operations Chief in the Ankara Coordination Directorate. An Individual Augmentee from the staff of the Chief of Navy Reserves, Brown was assigned to EUCOM's Operations and Plans Center for further deployment to Ankara.

Capt. Christine Miller, USNR, reported in late January to serve as public affairs officer. She is assigned as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee to EUCOM Public Affairs.

Other reservists will be augmenting the ACD during the next several months to share information and assist the Turkish General Staff.

## MG Grass

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tasked to provide enhanced support to the Turkish General Staff during its operations against terrorism on the Iraqi side of the border. Our reservists answered the call by volunteering to deploy immediately.

This is a tremendous testament to our ready and responsive Operational Reserve.

Also featured are the amazing 300-plus reservists mobilized to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Their dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm are evident and appreciated by our fighting men and women returning from CENTCOM.

Likewise, the upcoming Latvian/Michigan Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT) deployment to Afghanistan will provide important operational support while also allowing valuable training opportunities for the U.S. National Guard soldiers and airmen and Latvian Armed Forces.

This is exactly the kind of partnering we hoped for when the State Partnership Program was first conceived and is definitely an indication of the way ahead.

Exercise season is upon us and EUCOM will conduct a large-scale exercise this May called Austere Challenge. Without reservists serving on annual training, this critical exercise could not be accomplished.

And an update on

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**Readiness is essential to military reservists like the members of EUCOM Det 0130. In July, the unit trained with M-9s, M-4s, M-16s and squad automatic weapons using the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 (EST 2000) at Panzer Kaserne range. The EST 2000 is a digital visual simulator that uses lasers**



**and compressed air to simulate the discharge of a round from the weapon and represents the new millennium in basic combat training techniques. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew J. Thomas.**



# Flexible Response ups military readiness to terrorist events

By Lt. Cmdr. Ivy Kupec, USN  
EUCOM Public Affairs

Approximately 900 people participated in the four-day Flexible Response 2008, exercising how to respond to multiple terrorist-initiated chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) events in the EUCOM area of responsibility. Not surprisingly, reservists played in various functions of this mettle-testing exercise as well. From those in units rehearsing their role in the cataclysmic scenarios to public affairs, information technol-

ogy and various operators and planners, reservists were alongside their active-duty counterparts building preparedness and fine-tuning consequence management.

"We live in an unpredictable world where asymmetric threats can present new, hard-to-predict challenges everyday,"

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**"...reservist support is just another realistic aspect of the overall exercise structure."**

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said Maj. Juan Mendoza of the European Command Plans Division. "Flexible Response is a very important exercise to keep us in shape for anything thrown at us, and reservist involvement is just another realis-

tic aspect of the overall exercise's structure. We could never handle situations like the ones in Flexible Response without reservist support. That just wouldn't happen."

Flexible Response 2008 was a EUCOM theater-wide computer-assisted staff exercise to train EUCOM and component headquarters staff to work together with the U.S. interagencies and neighboring countries to coordinate foreign consequence management activities in the European theater. And, indeed, the consequences they had to manage were numerous and severe.

Participants responded to repeated assaults that included: radiological dispersal devices, high explosives involving a chemical truck, a mysterious and initially

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## Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

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respiratory care, the operating room, cardiology, neurology, radiology and the lab, as well as serving as patient administration specialists, physical and occupational therapists, and culinary specialists.

For Olson, this assignment not only combined organizational and leadership skills but also presented unique opportunities to meld together the military and medical cultures of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

"When our contingent arrived after in-processing in Gulfport, Miss., in late 2006, we were met with a host of challenges," said Olson, a full-time emergency nurse from New Hampshire. "Many of us had to adapt our in-the-field training to the culture of primarily an Army-managed medical facility that handles on average 600 critically wounded a month."

During their first month on the job, they treated 579 wounded personnel. By July, the number rose to more than 1,000.

"Our team had treated and cared for more than 7,000 patients since our arrival," Olson noted in August. "It was non-stop, 24 by 7, every day – a learning experience for every one of us."

As planes carrying wounded on a six-hour flight from Kabul or Baghdad touched down at nearby Ramstein Air Base, Navy reservists were poised to receive ambulances at Landstuhl's Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center



**A world away. For many of the health care providers, their work presents new sorts of challenges everyday. Lt. Cmdr. Mariflor Sumalt, a Chicago trauma nurse with 11 years Navy nursing experience, here cares for another one of the severely wounded personnel being treated in the well-equipped intensive care unit. Photo from LRMC.**

(DWMMC). Operational since March 2002, the DWMMC is specifically geared to provide medical care to military members, coalition forces and civilian contractors deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, whether they've been injured in combat or need routine medical attention.

Capt. Miguel Cubano, a full-time surgeon at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and Capt. Jeff McCune, executive officer of the DWMMC, were just two of 106 "ambassadors" there. Under their tutelage, more than 32

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# Reserve Marines part of multinational MEDCEUR exercise in Moldova

By 2nd Lt. Adrian Ambe  
Marine Forces Reserve

Reserve Marines once again participated in the two-week Partnership for Peace Medical Exercise for East and Central Europe '07 (MEDCEUR) in Bulboaca, Moldova, in August that helped train for mass casualty situations.

Reserve Marines from Detachment Personnel Retrieval and Processing Company (PRP) out of Smyrna, Ga., and PRP Company from Washington D.C., participated in MEDCEUR, simulating the real-world planning for a mass-casualty event.

In the past, the exercise primarily focused on medical practitioners and support staff. The inclusion of Marine mortuary affairs specialists for this exercise added the dimension of dealing with human-remains for the first time, according to Chief



**Sgt. Jewell Robinson and Lance Cpl. Simeon Merid, mortuary affairs specialists from Personnel Retrieval and Processing Detachment, Smyrna, Ga., cover a mannequin during a demonstration in Moldova as part of MEDCEUR 2007. Marines taught classes in mortuary affairs procedures during the multinational exercise. (Official USMC photo by Pfc. Mary A. Staes)**

including Armenia, Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia and the host Moldova. These students then practiced as mortuary affairs personnel in the recovery of remains.

Training included topics in mass disaster scenarios, remains identification, search

guage issues alone. Linguists and translators facilitated communication by translating presentations and project displays to diverse audiences.

Different approaches to mortuary affairs during the exercise provided the opportunity for Marines to benefit from sharing experiences with medical practitioners and support staff.

"The exercise was a success, and cooperation between medical practitioners and supporting staff from participating countries improved," said Moldovan Army Lt. Col. Vadim Cemirtan.

The Marines, along with Air Force and Moldovan personnel also participated in humanitarian projects in two local villages.

"The Marines have much to do for future exercises in educating and continuing the awareness process of involving mortuary affairs planning during mass casualty situations," said Sgt. Jewell Robinson. "MEDCEUR is a good reference point for those future initiatives."

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**"The exercise was a success, and cooperation between medical practitioners and supporting staff from participating countries improved..."**

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Warrant Officer Cheryl Ites, Mortuary Affairs section operations planner.

The exercise scenarios included a simulated disaster, and in response, teams were created to practice working together. Mortuary affairs specialists guided learning and provided support. Each team included doctors, medics, medical evacuation personnel, combat lifesavers and engineers.

Marines provided instruction in human remains recovery and processing to participants from 13 countries,

and recovery planning and operations, requests for air, NATO, medical evacuation, landing zone marking and Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

The instructors had plenty of work cut out for them.

"Some of the challenges we encountered here were language barriers and use of medical acronyms," said Lance Cpl. Scott Halisky. "It's our responsibility to find common ground to develop the awareness of [mortuary affairs] during the exercise."

Marines weren't facing lan-

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AFRICOM: IOC was in October and the services are attempting to fill all active-duty billets. Approximately 30 reservists are serving on the AFRICOM staff, filling in where needed and assisting with the standup, and that number is sure to grow.

Validation of African Command IMA reserve billets is ongoing. The AFRICOM staff has begun to develop its surge/crisis requirements perfectly suited for IMA Reserve component fill.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Answering the Call* and appreciate all the support we receive from the Reserve component and the services.

**Frank J. Grass**  
MG, US ARNG

*Director, Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, Headquarters United States European Command*

# Latvian/Michigan National Guard partnership extends its reach out to Afghanistan military

by Lt. Cmdr. Ivy Kupec, USN  
EUCOM Public Affairs

When the National Guard State Partnership Program began in 1993, it was expected that this visionary program would enhance security by increasing partner

military capabilities, improving interoperability and providing

training and resources to minimize instability in the region. Latvia and Michigan are taking their partnership to yet another level as they embed with the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) to jointly strengthen Afghanistan's military capabilities.

"This really is the way ahead for state partnerships," said Maj. Andrew C. Moreshead. "Latvia and Michigan have been partners since 1993 in the State Partnership Program, so this is an example of a mature partnership taking the relationship to the next level by deploying together."

In December, Latvian armed forces and Michigan Army National Guard representatives started working out the

details for an upcoming Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT) deployment where they will jointly operate with, train and mentor ANA cops, brigades and battalions known as *kandaks*.

"I feel getting the training plans for this venture finalized and approved, along with

completing the pre-mob requirements leading to the link-up

**"...NATO and EUCOM can look to this as a blueprint for possible future combined deployments and the next step for mature partnerships."**

with our partner country, and finally getting through the entire OMLT certification will be the biggest challenges for this endeavor," said Lt. Col. Ronald Latuszek, the bilateral affairs officer in Riga, Latvia. "The Michigan Army National Guard and the Latvian National Armed Forces are excited about this joint operation and continuing the great relationship experienced over the past 15 years."

The ANA divides training and operations into red, yellow and green portions, which include leave, refit; training and combat operations. The OMLTs will work through several full series of red, yellow and green cycles.

Some issues identified during the coordination meeting included a combined training schedule, Joint Tactical Air Control (JTAC) training and equipment issues. At the December meeting, the experienced Michigan National Guard



Through the years, members of Latvia's National Defense Force and the Michigan National Guard have trained together numerous times. Photo from Michigan.gov

met the Latvian OMLT officer in charge and shared some collective experiences gained in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The combined deployment is extremely important for the future of state partnerships like this one," Moreshead said. "NATO and EUCOM can look to this as a blueprint for possible future combined deployments and the next step for mature partnerships."

## Flexible Response

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misdiagnosed illness that turned out to be a biological attack, releasing pneumonic plague, an explosion that released VX gas, and an improvised nuclear device.

"Participating in an exercise like Flexible Response

keeps me sharp, so I can be mobilized and hit the ground running," said second-class petty officer Ralph Ivey who stood the watch at the Help Desk and worked other IT issues. "This is the kind of exercise that helps you know what would be needed and expected if these kinds of events occurred."

This year, EUCOM aggressively integrated new technology and con-

cepts to refine its planning process through exercises such as Flexible Response to respond quickly and appropriately to any contingency.

**"...reservist involvement is just another realistic aspect of the overall exercise's structure...."**

"JTF exercises give Navy reservists excellent opportunities to train

as members of a joint staff to prepare for current operations, and Flexible Response was designed specifically for the purpose of training a JTF staff," said Lt. Cdr. David Hixon, the executive officer for EUCOM Navy Reserve Unit, detachment 130. As the unit's exercise planner, he helped provide reservist support and was responsible for monitoring exercise events,

personnel accountability for unit members and briefing. "We need to keep in mind that Navy reservists have performed, are performing and will be required to perform vital roles in JTF operations afloat or ashore - JTF Guantanamo, JTF Lebanon, JTF East, JTF HOA, are a few of many."

Approximately a third of the exercise participants were the control group and trainers to provide important evaluation and lessons learned at the exercise conclusion. In May, reservists will be called upon yet again for an even larger consequence management exercise, Austere Challenge, which will be longer and is expected to further test and build participants' ability to respond quickly and effectively to the twists and turns of uncertain events.



# Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

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Navy Reserve nurses and hospital corpsmen comprised a tri-service team that tracked patients' medical evacuations and monitored flight departures from "down-range." In addition, this team met and assisted in off-loading wounded patients upon arrival from Ramstein via ambulance and ensured everything was set up to accommodate the patients – from billeting to chow and medical appointments. The DWMMC also coordinates and arranges future care for patients with U.S. military medical facilities.

"Communication was key to our success," McCune said. "We monitored inflight communications about inbound wounded patients from aeromedical doctors and nurses to ensure the best possible treatment when they were whisked into the ICU."

"We're extremely proud of some of the improvements we initiated here," Cubano said. "We updated the patient handbook that provides details on the services and facilities there at Landstuhl."

Severely wounded personnel were immediately moved to the Intensive Care Unit where physicians and nurses were surrounded by the constant whirl of life support machines. The medical horizons for Lt. Cmdr. Mariflor Sumalt, a civilian trauma care nurse, expanded during her deployment at Landstuhl.

"I never encountered 'Q fever' at Cook County Hospital," recounted the nurse with 11 years of Navy experience. "At Landstuhl, I worked with patients suffering traumatic brain injuries, undergoing amputation and suffering from intensive burns from IED blasts." It wasn't unusual for Sumalt and her colleagues to care for patients possibly infected with *Coxiella burnetii*, a bacteria that causes "Q fever," which can lead to serious cardiovascular problems.

## 56,000 X-rays in nine months

Chief Petty Officer William Lord oversaw more than 23 tri-service X-ray specialists. With more than 21 years of active and reserve duty under his belt, Lord, a father of three, is a full time X-ray technician in California.

"My team was constantly challenged," he said. "Most of the time, the wounded were unconscious, or we couldn't move a certain body part due to the external fixator devices – the metal



**It takes all kinds of expertise to help run a facility of LRMC's caliber. Lt. Brian Pyle (above) counsels family dependents on their needs. Other staff, from lab techs to those in culinary services, such as Chief Laura Grogan and Chief Chuck Wenzel (page 7, above and below) are among the 320+ reservists who have provided important care and services at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Photo from LRMC.**

framework that helps to align bones. Many of us had not encountered poly-trauma cases in our civilian careers."

The job called for creativity, flexibility and resourcefulness. Together, Lord and his team established new processes to respond to the heavy radiology demands. By July, they already had taken, processed and converted to CDs more than 56,000 X-rays.

## Counselor and problem-solver

Lt. Bryan Pyle, assigned to Navy Medical Center, San Diego, is one of the Navy's few licensed clinical social workers on active duty. Pyle received an age waiver in 2006 to enter active duty at 35.

After five months in San Diego, he received orders to Landstuhl. He considered himself a "part of a large motivation force" at Landstuhl. Pyle divided his time between counseling and problem-solving.

"Days are never the same for people experiencing trauma," he noted. "These wounded had been brave, and now they are in a safe environment receiving the best care. I try to help them focus on healing. It's important that we fulfill our commitment of returning our warriors home or back to the battlefield in the best possible physical and psychological health."

Two or three phrases were heard among

the reservists – the importance of collaboration and the lack of resolution.

"Often you'd get to know a patient and begin to see important physiological changes in his condition," said Lt. Cmdr. Michelle Perelli, an active-duty pulmonologist and intensivist. "That's about the time they would be med-evaced back to the mainland for extended care. There never seemed to be any closure."

Those like operating nurse Cmdr. Craig Duncan, USN Nurse Corps, saw yet another side of medical treatment. Known for wearing brightly colored surgical caps and sipping Mountain Dew, Duncan, a volunteer fireman and operating room nurse, left his job at the Cincinnati Veterans Administration Hospital for the challenges of treating the nation's severely wounded active duty.

"When we came here, we sensed a need for greater organization in the operating room and on the staff," the Vietnam era veteran said. "We averaged more than 600 operations a month so we had to use everyone's talents and expertise to the fullest."

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## They are what they eat

Talents and skills were not limited to health care. Culinary specialists worked under the leadership of Chief Petty Officer Chuck Wenzel from Wisconsin.

"We integrated into the Nutrition Care Division at all levels," Wenzel said. "Our Sailors displayed excellence in leadership daily as cooks, cashiers, bakers, diet technicians, shift leaders, and in supply and production services."

"We added new things to meet the needs of the staff, workers and patients," he said with pride. "The most important accomplishment was the improved communication with the mission team to provide hot meals to our newly arrived 'wounded warriors,' regardless of the time of day."

The two dietitians and 14 culinary

specialists may have been physically removed from the operating room and the ICU, but they still considered themselves integral to the team. Not only did they prepare and serve 1,900 meals a day, they were also a part of the \$3.85 million dining hall renovation project that today reflects the digging out of a half basement, new ceiling tiles, a new dining hall floor, as well as a new sprinkler and fire alarm system. The overhaul also included new cooling lines, freezer and refrigerator area, and a food preparation area with \$700,000 of new equipment.

## Spiritual reserves

In addition to the medical and culinary support, the spiritual needs of the wounded were cared for by three Navy Reserve chaplains and two religious program specialists.

Capt. Paul Burmeister, a Michigan parish pastor, acknowledged that he extended care to a "sight and sound generation" that experienced the invisible wounds of war both on and off the battlefield.

"These young people needed to talk about their experiences, but they didn't like to talk about themselves," Burmeister said. "One of our responsibilities was to help them integrate back into society and to understand what's normal."

For some soldiers, guilt was a heavy factor. Many of the wounded had lost a buddy in battle or in a roadside bombing.

"We helped them through the grieving process because they couldn't attend the memorial service for their fallen friends," Lt. Cmdr. Ronald Pettigrew said.

Another responsibility of the chaplain's team was coordinating its clothes closet. Stocked with not only clothes, but also duffel bags, books and other gear, it provided soldiers with basic clothing to wear while recuperating. Many major manufacturers donated surplus stock to

the closet, which finds its way back to Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States.

Every day offered learning experiences for the team that prided itself on "selfless service from the heart."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Dexter from Wisconsin became an expert in maximizing the space in an Air Force C-17 aircraft.

"The plane normally carried 68 personnel," he said. "However, our manifests were anything but normal. A wounded soldier on a gurney took up four seats, so the plane had to be re-configured to accommodate the load."

The year-long deployment for many of the reservists came to an end in November. Just like many of their patients, they faced transitions returning home.

During Olsen's Reserve team tenure, though, LRMC was verified as a Level II Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons, making it the only medical facility outside the United States with this distinction and only one of three Level II trauma centers in the Department of Defense.

"It really was a phenomenal experience for us," Olson said. "Most of us have trained our entire adult lives for an opportunity such as this, and our Sailors performed with grace and humility while serving wounded service members from downrange who pass through here on their return home."

In July, Chief of the U.S. Navy Reserve Vice Adm. John G. Cotton visited Landstuhl and praised both active and reserve Sailors deployed as the Fleet Hospital Great Lakes Platform.

"There are people alive today because of you," the admiral said then. "Your dedication and commitment are evident, especially when 68 Sailors have volunteered to remain on staff for an additional year!"



## EUCOM reservists, Tell us your story!

**Answering the Call** can only be as good as the stories in it, so tell us yours! Be sure to include:

- **Service** (Provide overarching description and background information)
- **Reservists' Name s** (If joint effort between units or service, list all reservists' first & last names, ranks, service)
- **Dates of Support**
- **J-code Supported**
- **Exercise / Type of Support**
- **Significance to the EUCOM Mission**
- **Accomplishments**
- **Quotes**
- **Buzz Words** (Explain key terms and acronyms that should be used in the story)
- **Photos** (Most desired of all, but please send a caption describing the action and identifying who is in the photo)
- **POC for additional information** (Include e-mail address and commercial phone number)

Send submissions or questions to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ivy Kupec at [kupeci@eucom.mil](mailto:kupeci@eucom.mil) by April 30 for the next issue.

## March reservists refuel aircraft over Turkey

by Sr. Airman David K. Flaherty  
452nd Air Mobility Wing  
Public Affairs

In August, March Air Reserve Base Airmen deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The 336th Air Refueling Squadron, members of the 452nd Maintenance Group and various other members of the wing went to Turkey as an air refueling aviation package.

Aircrews from the 336th Air Refueling Squadron and aircraft maintainers from the 452nd Maintenance Group formed the air refueling aviation package. Reservists from other parts of Air Force Reserve Command's 452nd Air Mobility Wing assisted them in their mission.

"We directly support the war fighter on the ground," said Lt. Col. Mary E. Aldrian, 336th ARS commander. "By providing air refueling to cargo aircraft that are flying supplies and personnel into the area of responsibility, we allow cargo planes to get to locations without the extra stop for fuel."

About 70 Airmen from the 452nd MXG deployed as part of the contingent.

"[They] did an outstanding job of ensuring our tankers were ready to go," said Col. Cam LeBlanc, 452nd MXG commander. "Our maintainers did a great job launching our jets, with a maintenance departure reliability rate over 95 percent, considering our supply kit with the Block 40, unique parts did not get there until mid rotation."

March ARB was tasked with 38 days of a 120-day Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployment. The March Airmen split the 38 days in half to perform



A KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 336th Air Refueling Squadron at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., refuels an F-16 Fighting Falcon. The Stratotankers from March deploy around the world for refueling missions and are currently deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric Kreps)

two 19-day deployments.

During August, the 336th ARS helped fuel more than 60 aircraft and off-loaded more than four million pounds of fuel in the airspace above Turkey.

In addition to saving time, air refueling can help save lives by keeping people out of harm's way. Since ground refueling makes it necessary to truck fuel into hazardous locations, additional people are put at risk on the ground, said Colonel Aldrian. Air refueling enhances the Air Force's capability to accomplish its mission of global reach.

Tech. Sgt. Erin S. Brotsch,

a 336th ARS in-flight refueler, returned home from Turkey in early September. A former pharmacist technician, Sergeant Brotsch said she cross-trained into in-flight refueling so she could see the world. Since becoming an in-flight refueler, Sergeant Brotsch has deployed several times, making this her second deployment to Turkey.

"For the mission, we were making sure the planes got to where they were going," said Sergeant Brotsch. "Whenever you log combat support time, it feels good. I'm looking forward to our next deployment and I'll be happy to go again."

### Answering the Call

## EUCOM

**Answering the Call is a periodic e-mail newsletter sponsored by European Command Reserve Affairs for National Guardsmen and Reservists to highlight the support the Reserve community regularly provides to EUCOM in fulfilling its missions throughout its area of responsibility.**

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